

reconsider the rejections presented in the outstanding Office Action in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1 - 16 were pending in the instant application at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Of these claims, Claims 1, 7, 12, 14, and 16 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims. All claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 1-6 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Williamowski et al. in view of Cameron et al. Claims 7-15 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Williamowski et al. in view of Tan et al. and in further view of Fawcett et al. The Action takes the position that Williamowski et al. "discloses selecting a suitable search engine from said plurality of search engines; ... translating said query words of ... native language ... into ... query words of ... dedicated language of said selected search engine". (Pages 3 and 5). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections are hereby respectfully requested.

As best understood, Williamowski et al. appears to be directed to cross-lingual information retrieval wherein the user specifies a number of items, one of which is the language into which a query is translated. (Col. 5, lines 37-40) Another item which the user may specify is whether "to guess the language of the results". (Col. 5, lines 47-49) The query is then subsequently presented to a search engine. The only search engine identified in Williamowski et al. is Alta Vista. (Col. 3, lines 56-59) Thus, it appears as if

the translated query is presented to a search engine without regard to the dedicated language of the search engine, in contrast with the present invention.

As best understood, Cameron et al. appears to be directed to querying various sources on the web to obtain relevant stories about upcoming meetings. (Col. 2, lines 5-8) There does not appear to be any translation occurring within Cameron et al., nor is there any selection or variation of the search engines used. To the contrary, the search engines are set as Alta Vista and Newspaper. (Col. 35, lines 44-47; "in function block 640 the query is submitted to the Alta Vista search engine and in function block 650, the query is submitted to the Newspaper search engine.")

The Action's reliance on Tan et al. and Fawcett et al. is not understood. Tan et al. appears to be directed to multi-language domain name service. Fawcett et al. appears to be directed to interactive voice response systems. These documents do not appear to be related to the present invention.

Williamowski et al. does not provide a teaching or suggestion of the instantly claimed invention. The combination of Williamowski et al., Cameron et al., Tan et al., and/or Fawcett et al. also fails to teach or suggest the instantly claimed invention. As clearly defined by the claims, the instantly claimed invention requires specifically "translating said query words of native language into query words of dedicated language of said selected search engine." (Claim 1) Similar language appears in the other independent claims. Purposely translating the query into the (dedicated) language of a

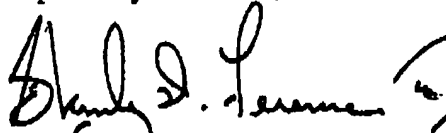
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particular search engine is not provided by Williamowski et al. or any of the other applied references.

Moreover, following the teachings of the Williamowski et al. patent would not result in the instantly claimed invention. In Williamowski et al. the user may select the language of the query but there is no teaching the user has any knowledge of what particular search engine will be used in searching the query. Thus, following the teachings of Williamowski et al. would not result in the claimed invention where the query is translated into the dedicated language of the search engine to be used. Williamowski et al. simply does not teach or disclose these limitations, either alone or in combination with the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-16 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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